

Adoption Credit

Maximum credit for a child with special needs	\$ 13,400
Other adoptions, qualified expenses	Up to \$ 13,400
Phaseout range, modified adjusted gross income	\$ 201,010 - \$ 241,010

Section 179 Expense

Expense limit	\$ 25,000
Phaseout threshold	\$ 200,000

FICA (SS & Medicare) Wage Base

Social Security wage base	\$ 118,500
Maximum Social Security tax	\$ 7,347
Medicare Wage Base	No ceiling
Maximum Medicare Wage tax	No ceiling

Student Loan Interest Deduction

Maximum interest deduction	\$ 2,500
Modified Adjusted Gross Income Phaseout:	
Married Filing Jointly	\$130,000 to \$160,000
Single/HOH	\$ 65,000 to \$ 80,000

Qualifying Child

A qualifying child for purposes of the child tax credit must be all of the following:

- Claimed as your dependent on line 6c of Form 1040 or Form 1040A
- Under age 17 at the end of 2015
- Your:
 - Son, daughter, adopted child, stepchild, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your grandchild)
 - Brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your niece or nephew) whom you cared for as you would your own child
 - Foster child (any child placed with you by an authorized placement agency whom you cared for as you would your own child)
- A U.S. citizen or resident alien

Adopted child An adopted child is always treated as your own child. An adopted child includes a child placed with you by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption even if the adoption is not final.

Kidnapped child A kidnapped child is treated as a qualifying child for the child tax credit if both of the following statements are true:

- The child is presumed by law enforcement authorities to have been kidnapped by someone who is not a member of your family or the child's family
- The child qualified as your dependent for the part of the year before the kidnapping

This treatment applies for all years until the child is returned; however, the last year this treatment can apply is the earlier of:

- The year there is a determination that the child is dead
- The year the child would have reached age 16

DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT LIMITATIONS

To determine the amount of your credit, multiply your work-related expenses (after applying the earned income and dollar limits) by a percentage. This percentage depends on your adjusted gross income shown on Form 1040, line 38, or Form 1040A, line 22. The following table shows the percentage to use based on adjusted gross income. The maximum eligible to be multiplied by these percentages is \$3,000 per child, maximum of \$6,000 per return.

IF your adjusted gross income is:

Over	But Not Over	The the Percentage Is:
\$ 0	\$15,000	35%
15,000	17,000	34%
17,000	19,000	33%
19,000	21,000	32%
21,000	23,000	31%
23,000	25,000	30%
25,000	27,000	29%
27,000	29,000	28%
29,000	31,000	27%
31,000	33,000	26%
33,000	35,000	25%
35,000	37,000	24%
37,000	39,000	23%
39,000	41,000	22%
41,000	43,000	21%
43,000	No Limit	20%

COMPARISON OF EDUCATION CREDITS

Lifetime Learning Credit	American Opportunity
Up to \$2,000	Up to \$2,500/Up to 40% is refundable
Maximum lifetime learning rate is 20%	100% of first \$2,000 plus 25% of next \$2,000
Available for all years of post-secondary education and for courses to acquire or improve job skills	Available for four years of college
Available for an unlimited number of years	Available only for 2009 through 2015
Student does not need to be pursuing a degree or other recognized educational credential	AGI Phaseout between \$80,000 - \$90,000 (160K - 180K)
Available for one or more courses	Student must be enrolled at least half-time for at least one academic period beginning during the year.
Felony drug conviction rule does not apply	As of the end of 2015, the student had not been convicted of a felony for possession or distributing a controlled substance.

EDUCATION CREDITS PHASEOUT

Lifetime Learning adjusted gross income phaseout:	Refundable American Opportunity
Married Filing Jointly	\$110,000 to \$130,000
All other filing statuses	\$ 55,000 to \$ 65,000
	\$160,000 to \$180,000
	\$ 80,000 to \$ 90,000

SOCIAL SECURITY PAYBACK

At full retirement age or older	No limit on earnings
Under full retirement age	\$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$2 you earn above \$15,720
In the year you reach full retirement age	Your benefits will be reduced \$1 for every \$3 you earn above \$41,880

* For 2015, full retirement age is 66 years.